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NATIONAL ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SPACE COUNCIL
WASHINGTON

April 19, 1965

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

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MEMORANDUM FOR:

Honorable Dean Rusk
Secretary of State

Honorable James E. Webb
Administrator, NASA

e Robert S. McNamara
y of Defense

Honorable Glenn T. Se
Chairman, AEC

Subject: Proposal: U. S. Recovery Support for Soviet Manned Space Flights

The Vice President has expressed interest in a proposal to have the U. S. make a public offer to the Soviet Union to provide emergency recovery support for future Soviet manned space flights.

Some of the considerations which bear on this proposal are the following: (a) international humanitarian appeal; (b) propaganda advantage, whether or not accepted; (c) admission of Soviet difficulty with Voskhod 2; (d) no anticipated interference with our own space program; (e) possibility of reciprocity; (f) capability of quick implementation; (g) increased information about Soviet program.

It would be intended that the initial offer would comprise only an emergency recovery capability using ships and aircraft which are normally assigned to the U. S. air-sea rescue service.

Before making any such recommendations to the President, the Vice President desires that the proposal be coordinated with the members of the Council. He has asked me to carry out that assignment. It would be appreciated if you would have me advised of your reactions. If you feel that a staff-level meeting to discuss the idea should be held prior to your expressing a position, please so indicate and identify whom from your staff you wish to have attend such a session.

E. C. Welsh

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